

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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MR. BRYAN'S LETTERS

Mr. Bryan took passage on the Pacific Mail steamship Manchuria, which sailed from San Francisco September 27.

He went to Japan via Honolulu. After a few weeks in Japan he will proceed to China, the Philippine Islands, India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Holland and the British Isles.

The trip will occupy about one year, and the readers of The Commoner will be able to follow Mr. Bryan from the letters which will be published in The Commoner from time to time.

The people of several gang ruled cities are preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving in unusually enthusiastic style.

"Boss" Durham of Philadelphia was known to his familiars as "Iz" Durham. He is now known as "Waz" Durham.

"Boss" Cox is in a position to give some sage advice to other political bosses who insist on waiting until they are shoved.

The cemeteries in Philadelphia refused to yawn on election day, the result being that the gang showed up several thousand votes short.

The public is informed that President McCurdy is losing his hearing. But the public will be more interested in hearing that President McCurdy has lost his job.

Astronomers declare that there are 100,000 miles of "spots" on the sun. There seems to be even more than that on the reputations of some life insurance presidents.

The manager of Bernard Shaw's indecent play paid a high tribute to the press when he admitted that the daily newspapers had driven that play from the stage.

When President Roosevelt has reformed football he will make a hit by giving his attention to the man who is always standing on the outside edge of the rear platform.

The indications are that several Russian grand dukes will have to go to work for a living—unless they can organize life insurance companies and secure the presidency.

"Turn your thoughts on the higher things of life," advises Mr. Rockefeller. That's all very well, Mr. Rockefeller, but it is hard to do it when a fellow has to dig for a bare living.

An American autoist in France was fined \$4,000 and sentenced to imprisonment for three months for running over and killing a little girl. In this country he would probably have been compelled to send his chauffeur to the police station with a blank check to pay a twenty dollar fine.

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Princess Louise of Saxony is said to owe \$900,000. She might issue bonds to that amount and begin negotiation with a bond syndicate organized among a lot of life insurance presidents.

To be consistent some earnest administration supporter should suggest to the czar that he secure the services of some eminent American politicians to teach the Russian people self-government.

When the price of coal goes up the excuses for the increase are numerous—shortage of cars, shortage of coal, shortage of miners. The fact that people are often short of coal money seems never to cut a figure.

It will be noted that no one is wasting time asking the insurance company presidents where they got it. Everybody knows. What everybody wants to know is when the life insurance presidents are to be jarred loose.

The supreme court has decided that a stockholder has a right to inspect the books of his company. Perhaps, but what can he expect to find in books that are doctored up until they perplex a government expert?

The eminent gentlemen who imagine that they can make the people believe they are "standing by the president" while opposing his rate regulation policy have very little conception of the mental perception of the people.

The packers' claim that Commissioner Garfield promised them immunity in return for all the facts about their business is a joke—and a very bad joke. The packers overdid the business when they cooked up those figures.

EDITORIALS FROM COMMONER READERS

Referring to the suggestion that Mr. Cortelyou retire from the president's cabinet, Edward Callaghan of Charleroi, Pa., writes: "Why should George B. Cortelyou be asked to resign from the cabinet while Theodore Roosevelt remains president? It was to elect Mr. Roosevelt that the big insurance companies gave away the democratic policyholders' money. Mr. Roosevelt knows this to be true. Why not ask him to resign? P. T. Barnum once said that the American people like to be humbugged. Edward Callaghan says 'that if Theodore Roosevelt and the trusts are not humbugging the American people now, the said P. T. Barnum was mistaken.' It will even question the veracity of Holy Writ 'can a bad tree bring forth good fruit?' etc. Paste this in your hat for future reference. Roosevelt is singing the swan song."

Omaha, Neb., Nov. 3.—Our fathers were not friendly to bankers being in congress. They (bankers) are out of place there. In the "debates of congress" of 1789 and 1790, pages 445 and 446, United States senate, we find recorded a motion to amend the ninth section of the constitution as follows:

"Nor shall any person holding an office or stock in any institution in the nature of a bank for issuing or discounting bills or notes payable to bearer on order, under the authority of the United States be a member of either house while he holds such stock, but no power to grant any charter of incorporation or any charter or other monopoly shall be implied."

This passed the senate, yeas 13; nays, 12; January 16, 1790. When John Quincy Adams was in congress he held that he had no right to vote on the subject of the national bank of which he was a stockholder until he had disposed of his stock.

We will have a perpetual debt as long as national bankers are permitted to sit in the senate and house. In his sixth annual message, replying to the house of representatives, President Washington said: "As far as may be practicable we ought to place that credit on grounds which cannot be disturbed, and to prevent that accumulation of debt which must ultimately endanger all governments." In his seventh message, replying to the house, he said: "Whatsoever will tend to the honorable extinction of our public debt accords as much with the true interest of our country as with the general sense of our constituents." In his eighth message, replying to the house, he said: "I will only add that it will afford me a heartfelt satisfaction to concur in such further measures as will ascertain to our

The republican gang in Philadelphia made a desperate fight and spent immense sums of money. Among other expenditure was one for newspaper advertising display, but they couldn't gag the editorial writers.

A Forced Levy From the Gang

The Record, a democratic paper, accepted the advertisements and donated the money therefore to the Philadelphia Home for Incurables. Then it roasted the gang to a brown turn editorially. The gang in Philadelphia has looted the city to the tune of millions, but the Record aided in getting a part of it back and devoting it to a good cause.

This is a utilitarian age, and even pleasures are being turned to practical uses. A Nebraska farmer, living near Hastings, owns an automobile and is an enthusiastic lover of what the initiated call the "buzz wagon." But he has discovered that the auto is good for other things than riding around over the good Nebraska roads. He has other things to do, and he has hitched his "wagon" to several things, the chief one being the washing machine. He jacks up the rear wheels of the auto, attaches a belt to one wheel and runs it over a pulley on the family washing machine. Then he "cranks up" and throws his lever. The whir of the auto wheels sounds good in his ears and he imagines he is traveling at a lively rate. In the meantime the good wife sits in the rocking chair and watches the washing machine getting in its work. It does not take the American people long to utilize anything that comes along. The pleasure contrivances of yesterday are the utilities of today.

The Progressive West

A nation that can and wont pay its debts is dishonest. Some of ours have been running since the civil war, and the national bankers will perpetuate and increase it as a basis for their national bank notes. Why should the people carry this heavy load for generations to sustain and fatten the national banks and permit them to dictate our financial legislation for their own particular benefit. They ought to be run out of congress and our legislatures. E. F. T.

Owosso, Mich., Oct. 28.—Did you ever stop to think what we as subscribers to The Commoner could do in the way of extending its usefulness if we only set about it. There are perhaps 150,000 of us taking this paper. Now it stands to reason that we are in sympathy with what it advocates or we would not be taking it. This being true why not one and all of us try to extend its usefulness and do it in this way: Each week when we receive our paper and have read it let's pass it along. We will probably find some article that appeals particularly to us, or that we consider especially good. Let's encircle it with a lead pencil and mail or hand it to a friend. Do this every week. In a year's time we get fifty-two copies each. Supposing the whole of 150,000 of us would do as I suggest, just think what it would mean?

It would mean practically an endless chain of readers of The Commoner and in my opinion in a few months time would double the subscription list. Let's try it.

If you have old copies on hand wrap them up in bunches and hand them out to some one who you think will read them. "Kcep them moving."

F. J. McDANNELL.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 8.—Shake, for "truth is mighty and will prevail" as so oft repeated by W. J. Bryan. Now we wish he were home to help us spread the glad tidings and celebrate the glorious victory in Pennsylvania and greater still in the state of that other "stuffed" and now discredited "prophet" Grosvenor. He can now crawl into his hole and then pull the hole in after him as his day of usefulness, if he ever had any, is gone never to return, for we democrats will give him as his party a worse licking in 1908 than they received at the hands of Pattison and the honest people of the state yesterday.

JOHN P. MAHONEY.